

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 314162
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:EJNADEAU:MMS
APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN
S/S -O:LRMACFARLANE
-----311904Z 044380 /44
O 311859Z DEC 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 314162

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
EXDIS FOR JORDEN FROM SHLAUDEMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PA

SUBJECT: PROPOSED DEPLOYMENT OF MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

1. WE UNDERSTAND REASONS FOR INCREASED SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN AFTER OCTOBER BOMBING INCIDENTS, THAT THE PROPOSED DEPLOYMENT IS TO RELIEVE INFANTRYMEN FROM 193RD AND ALSO THAT MILITARY POLICE WILL BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT MORE EFFECTIVELY THOSE SECURITY MEASURES WHICH INVOLVE PANAMAN- IAN AND US CIVILIANS IN THE ZONE.

2. FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION IS, HOWEVER, THE NEED TO CONTINUE THE INCREASED SECURITY MEASURES IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE BOMBINGS HAVE STOPPED, PASSAGE OF TIME, FACT THAT NEGOTIATIONS PROCEEDING CONSTRUCTIVELY, TORRIJOS' APPARENT DECISION NOT TO PRESS HIS LUCK FOLLOWING HIS LETTER TO THE SECRETARY. IT WOULD APPEAR TO ME THAT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE BOMBINGS MIGHT BE RESUMED HAS BEEN DIMINISHED.

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3. BEFORE I MAKE A RECOMMENDATION ABOUT THE DEPLOYMENT OF A MILITARY POLICE COMPANY, I REQUEST THAT YOU CALL A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PRC, AS ITS CHAIRMAN, TO ASSESS THE NEED FOR CONTINUATION OF INCREASED SECURITY MEASURES.

4. AS A FINAL DECISION WILL NEED TO BE MADE ON THE
PROPOSED DEPLOYMENT VERY SOON, I WOULD LIKE YOUR REPORT
OF PRC VIEWS NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 4.

ROBINSON

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NNN

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